The severall

ANSWERS

Of

Both *Houses of Parliament*, to the

City PETITION.

With a

TRVE COPY

Of the *Petition* of the Lord *Maior*, Aldermen, and the rest of the Common-Councell, of London, presented to both Houses of Parliament, March 18. 1641.

Together with,

Mr. SPEAKERS Letter,

Ordered

By the Honourable House of Commons, to the High Sheriffe, and Gentry of YORKSHIRE.

Containing divers remarkable matters of great note and consequence.

Published by Order of Parliament.

London Printed for John Wright. 1641.

A True Copy of the Petition of the Lord Maior, Aldermen, and the rest of the Common-Councell of *London*, presented to both Houses of Parliament, *March* 18. 1641.

The humble Petition of the Maior, Aldermen, and the rest of the Common-Councell of the City of London.

Sheweth.

THat the Petitioners doe much rejoyce in the happy and ioyfull Concurrence of both the Houses of Parliament, as in other things, so especially, in that most necessary Ordinance touching the Militia of this Kingdome, and dominion of Wales; Whereunto the Petitioners doe most humbly and cheerefully submit, for the safety of His Majesty, the Parliament and Kingdome: for the ordering whereof many pressing Petitions from most parts of the Kingdome have been exhibited, in this time of imminent Danger, proceeding from the bloody Counsells of Papists and others, ill affected to the honour, peace and prosperity of our most gracious King, and his Kingdomes.

And the Petitioners doe likewise humbly returne all possible thanks unto this Honourable House, for the great honour and high favour vouchsafed in giving them leave to nominate the Persons to whom the Militia of this City should be committed; And for accepting and approving of the Nomination and return made to this Honourable House, by the Petitioners on that behalfe.

But

But this their joy is much disturbed and interrupted by an untrue, and dangerous Petition, intituled The Petition of the Citizens of *London*, whose names are underwritten, directed and delivered, in *February* last, to the Lords and Commons assembled in Parliament; and since published in Print, with this Title, The humble Petition of the Citizens of *London*: thereby to publish it through the Kingdome, as the Petition of all the Citizens: wherein is set forth (as appeares by one of those Printed Copies annexed) that the ordering of the Armes of *London* hath time out of mind, beene annexed to the Maioralty of the said City; that the conferring thereof upon others would reflect upon the government and Customes of this City, granted by the great Charter of *England*, and confirmed by divers Acts and Charters since that time: and which every Freeman of the said City is by the Oath of his freedome bound to maintaine to the utmost of his power; and that such alteration in the ancient Government might breed great distractions and inconveniencies: or to this effect.

Nor this alone, but the Petitioners are yet more deeply wounded and grieved, by the presumptuous boldnesse of the Publishers of the said Petition in Print, by joyning therewith His Majesties Answer and denyal, Intituled, *His Majesties Message to both Houses of Parliament, February* 28. 1641. Which Answer (as the Petitioners humbly conceive) was grounded upon the said Petition, and misinformation of some persons, ill affected to His Majesty and to the City, who have thereby, and otherwise, often endeavoured to make divisions betwixt the King and the Parliament, betwixt the Parliament and the City, and betwixt the Citizens among themselves, to the intollera-

ble abuſe of his ſacred Majeſty, and of all his loyall Subjects.

And they verily beleeve, that this bold publiſhing in Print, of the ſaid Petition, and his Majeſties Meſſage (which ſhortly after followed the exhibiting of the ſaid Petition) together in one Printed paper, was purpoſely done, wickedly and ſeditiouſly, to make diviſions as aforeſaid, to beget an opinion throughout the Kingdome, that the City of *London* doth not intend to conforme unto, but complaine of, and oppoſe the aforeſaid Ordinance, and to make the ſaid Petition a deſperate preſident to the reſt of the Kingdom, to do the like; thereby to hinder the cheerfull, needfull, lawfull, and unanimous Concurrence of the Kingdome, in yeelding due, and full timely obedience to the ſaid Ordinance.

They doe therefore humbly pray, This Honourable Houſe will vouchſafe,

1. *To beleeve, that neither this nor any other Petition of the like kind ever came from the Petitioners, nor was framed, contrived or approved of by them. And that they doe wholly and with deteſtation diſavow and diſclaime the ſame as untrue, unadviſed, and dangerous Petition.*

2. *To put a difference betweene the Authors, Contrivers, Promoters, Adviſers, Publiſhers and Printers of it, and ſuch, as it ſhall appeare to this Honourable Houſe, were by ſubtilty drawne in unawares to ſubſcribe the ſame, without any malignant intention, and ſhall clearely and fully acknowledge their error, and raſhnes therein; and that the latter ſort may have ſuch lawfull favour as may ſtand with the honour and juſtice of the high Court of Parliament.*

Laſtly, they doe humbly pray, this Honourable Houſe will ſtill encreaſe their joy, by endeavouring to uphold and continue, by all

good

good meanes that bleſſed concurrence of both Houſes of Parliament, in all your great affaires, and effectually to proceed againſt all diſturbers and undermyners thereof, and that ſhall endeavour to cheriſh any miſunderſtanding betwixt the King and Parliament, whom God and the Lawes of this Land have united in ſo neere a Relation.

And they ſhall ever be ready to aſſiſt and ſtand by this Honourable Houſe therein, with their lives and Eſtates, to the utmoſt of their power, according to their late Proteſtation.

Another of the ſame Petitions (with change only of the Title) was likewiſe preſented to the moſt Honourable Houſe of Peeres, the ſame day (March 18) by divers Aldermen, and other worthy Members of the Court of Common Councell aforeſaid.

And ſhall unceſſantly pray, &c.

The Anſwer to the aforeſaid Petition by the Vpper Houſe.

Die Veneris 18. *Martii*. 1641.

THe Aldermen and Citizens that delivered the Petition this day to the Lords in Parliament were called in, and the Lord Keeper told them by the direction of the Houſe, that their Lordſhips did give them thanks for their readineſſe and forwardneſſe in their Obedience to the Ordinance of Parliament, made by both Houſes, concerning the Militia, and further care of preventing any diſorders that might have happened by preferring or exhibiting a falſe and ſcandalous Petition in the name of the City, whereas it was not ſo. That their Lordſhips have ordered, that this Petition now preſented ſhall be printed and Publiſhed, and for the ſcandalous Petition, the Lords have ordered the ſame ſhall be burnt by the hand of the Commons Hangman: and that their Lordſhips doe reſolve to make a difference betweene thoſe that were the Authors and Contrivers of that ſcandalous Petition and thoſe that were ſeduced and ignorantly drawne in to ſubſcribe to that Petition.

The Answer of the House of Commons to the aforesaid Petition.

Die Veneris 18. *Martii* 1641.

THe humble Petition of the Major, Aldermen, and the rest of the Common Councell of this City was this day read in the house of Cõmons, & ordred to be entred in the Journals of the said House, and to be Printed. The Petitioners were called in, and Master Speaker told them that the House had read their Petition, and received it with a great deale of contentment and approbation, and it being of that great consequence, and so full of expression of zeale and affection to his Majesty, and the Kingdome: and in particular, that he was of respect to this House, commanded to returne them hearty thankes in the name of the whole House: and wished, that he had words sufficiently to expresse it.

And for those of the City of *London*, that subscribed that dangerous Petition complained of by the Petitioners, and are desirous to acknowledge their errour (Provided they were none of the contrivers of that Petition; nor had a malignant spirit in the advancing and exhibiting thereof.) This House, according to the desires of the Petitioners, is willing to shew favour unto them. And as the Petioners doe expresse their care of the King and Kingdome, and of this House in particular; so this House will be alwayes ready to give their best endeavours to further those things that may concerne the honour and safety of the King and Kingdome, and in particular of the good and safety of the City of *London*.

H. Elsing Cler. Parl. D. Com.

Mr. Speakers Letter.

SIR,

THe Houſe hath received information by Letters from your ſelfe, that the malice of ſome hath proceeded ſo farre of late, as to endeavour firſt, to perſwade your Countrey, that their Petitions to the Parliament were ill reliſhed by this Houſe. And that your free offers therein of putting your ſelves into a Poſture of Defence, hath given ſuch teſtimony of your abilities, that it hath utterly taken away the hopes of paying your Billet money, til the Parliament knowes not how elſe to diſpoſe of it. Secondly, to cry downe Exerciſes (which have already done much good) and to draw off ſome Miniſters by perſwading them that they are not acceptable to this Houſe. Thirdly, that ſome in *Holderneſſe* have diſſwaded the Trained Bands from going into *Hull* upon the Parliaments Order.

Which information of yours, the Houſe takes for a an eſpeciall ſervice, and for ſo full a teſtimony of your fidelity to the Parliament, and of love to your Country, as they hold it an evident character of your worth, and for this commands mee to give you very hearty thankes. And to deſire you in the name of the Houſe to declare to the Country, how falſe and malicious theſe reports are: ſince the Houſe was ſo farre from diſrelliſhing their Petitions, or turning their free offer to their diſadvantage, as that they returned their publike thankes when the Petition was received, Paſſed a vote to approve of their offer, and ſince by another Vote juſtified them in the ſame Act upon his Majeſties taking notice thereof. And have ſince ordered that the ſame Counties which paid their Pole money heretofore at *York*, ſhall

now

now pay all their proportions of the Bill of foure hundred thousand pounds shortly to be raised to the discharge of the Billet money in your County and those other Counties where it is owing, which if it shall not fully satisfie, they will discharge as soone as the great necessities of the Kingdome can possibly permit. And likewise they command mee to let you know that they doe very much wonder at the impiety and impudence of those men who dare to hinder the advancement of the glory of God and of his worship. And also to scandalize the piety of this House in so high a measure, as to say those good Ministers endeavours are not acceptable to it, they accounting it their greatest honour to patronize painefull Preachers in the performance of their duties. And being resolved to cherish and advance with their utmost power, whatsoever may tend to the propagating of Religion, of which they hold those exercises to be an especiall meanes. This House therefore being very sensible of the great inconveniences which may happen by their misreports in these distracted times, and from the malice of these men, if it should proceed uncountrolled, desires, and enjoynes you to returne the names as well of those who have vented these untruths, as likewise of those who have disswaded the Trained Bands in Holdernesse, from entring into *Hull* upon the Parliaments Order perswading themselves that you who have already given such proofe of your affection to the Kingdome, will still continue it by your endeavors, to prevent the practises of any ill affected persons upon any of that County, to the disturbance of the peace.

Die Mercurii 16 Martii, 1641.

It is this day ordered by the House of Commons now assembled in Parliament, that this bee forthwith Printed.

H. Elsyngs Cler. Parl. D. Com.

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